

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting  
held on Wednesday, 14 September 2011 at 8pm  
in Saughton Community Association Hall  
Chair: H Ross

Present: W Amcotts, R Brown, G Douglas, S Holland, G McLeod,  
H Ross, R Smart, W Spence, J Yellowlees  
*Ex officio:* Cllr Balfour, Cllr Edie  
In attendance: Marco Biagi MSP, PC Durant, 13 members of the public  
Apologies: E Robertson, F Deans, Cllr Wheeler, M Crockart MP

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received as above. The Chairman explained that Freddie Deans had replaced A Weatherston as the nominee of Murrayfield Parish Church, but he was unable to attend the current meeting. The Chairman welcomed those in attendance.

2. Order of Business

This was approved.

3. Community Policing Report

PC Durant reported that in the past month:-

- 3.1 incidents of youth disorder and anti-social behaviour had declined;
- 3.2 there had been no further reported incidents of stones being thrown from the Coltbridge viaduct, but the perpetrators of the offence reported at the last meeting had not yet been caught;
- 3.3 a Priority Setting Meeting had been held on 14 September, but he had not yet been notified of the priorities set;
- 3.4 checks on licensed premises were continuing with over 100 having been carried out so far in September.

W Spence reported having recently seen a motorbike carrying 3 youths in the Balgreen area. PC Durant reported that a similar offence in Craigmillar had resulted in an arrest.

4. Marco Biagi MSP

The Chairman introduced Marco Biagi MSP, whose constituency includes 8 Community Council areas, one of which is Murrayfield. M Biagi reported that he had already visited a few of the other Councils and that the issues with which they were concerned ranged widely. In relation to Murrayfield he was aware of the issues raised by the recent concerts at the Stadium; he had met with the SRU and had asked to be involved in the Community Liaison meetings.

M Biagi informed the meeting that he holds surgeries at his constituency office every Tuesday and at 4 other locations in the constituency every Friday from 1 pm. Details can be found on the Scottish Parliament website.

In response to a question from a member of the public M Biagi stated that Sarah Boyack was still dealing with the Flood Prevention Scheme. Cllr Balfour confirmed that it was still the City Council's intention to carry out the

Roseburn section of the Scheme in late 2012, but that this was dependant on the necessary funding being found.

A member of the public, who lives in Baird Drive, complained that the Scheme will involve the underpinning of her house and that this proposal has had the effect of greatly increasing her buildings insurance premium and is likely to reduce the resale value of her house, as she understands that prospective purchasers cannot get a mortgage for an underpinned property. The Chairman mentioned that the City Council had offered help with the insurance of properties affected by the Scheme. **Cllrs Balfour and Edie** asked for the owner's name and address and **undertook to take this issue forward.**

The same member of the public reported that the path from Baird Drive to Gorgie, which her son used to get to school, had been closed to permit the tram works and had not been reinstated when the works stopped. W Spence stated that he had taken this issue up with Alf Orriel, Tie's Customer Service Relationship Manager, but had not received a satisfactory answer.

S Holland reported that he had been advised that the proposed local Community Engagement Groups, which had not so far met, were to be "resurrected".

5. Alf Orriel – Edinburgh Trams

The Chairman reported that Alf Orriel had undertaken to attend the current, or the next, MCC meeting to provide an update on the tram project, but was not present, as he had nothing to report to the current meeting.

6. Ward Councillors' Report

Cllr Edie reported on 3 issues:-

6.1 He rehearsed the recent history of the tram project – the City Council's decision to complete the line only as far as Haymarket, which had subsequently been revised to authorise completion as far as St Andrew Square. Completion is scheduled for June 2014 and the total cost of the line will be £760m. Cllr Edie reported that cancellation of the contract had been considered, but would have resulted in an upfront cost of £161m and an increase in Council Tax.

6.2 A meeting of stakeholders to consider the problems caused by winter weather was due to take place in early October. W Spence intimated that he had been invited to attend and undertook to provide the Chairman with the agenda for the meeting.

6.3 The crime statistics for Scotland had been issued last week and showed an overall fall in crime in Edinburgh of 20% with anti-social behaviour having fallen by more than this.

Cllr Balfour reported on the City Council's proposed adoption of the Alternative Business Model, which would involve the outsourcing of many of the services currently provided by the Council. A decision would be made at the end of October and he would report the decision to the next MCC meeting on 1 November.

In response to a question from a member of the public regarding the safeguards which could be put in place to ensure delivery of the services contracted for, Cllr Balfour confirmed that the Council was taking legal advice on how to make the contracts watertight.

7. Approval of Minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 2 August 2011

These were approved. Prop: S Holland, Sec: G McLeod.

8. Matters Arising

8.1. *Meeting dates*

The Chairman intimated that a meeting on 26 June 2012 had been added to the calendar for next year and the meeting dates would be publicised on both the MCC website and the flyers to be delivered to all households in the MCC area.

8.2. *Community Survey Questions*

The Chairman asked for views on the questionnaire to be placed on the MCC website, which is designed to increase community involvement. It was agreed that the description of the local areas covered by MCC should include reference to Craighleith. Respondents to the questionnaire are to be asked to identify the 3 local issues which are most important to them and explain why they are important to them. **The Chairman is to ask West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership, who are running a similar survey, to share their data in so far as relevant to the MCC area.**

8.3. *Community Council Boundary*

The Chairman has written to the City Council supporting the application to have the boundary changed in relation to Donaldson Area Amenity Association. The West End Community Council has also written in support and Cllrs Balfour, Edie and Wheeler have lent their support to the application.

8.4. *Roseburn Area*

The Chairman reported that Murray Black of the West Edinburgh Neighbourhood team was dealing with some of the issues raised at the last meeting. J Yellowlees reminded the meeting that the poles, signs, scaffolding and Air Monitoring Unit were due to be removed and the lights on the Bridge put in place by the end of October.

8.5. *Any Other Matters Arising*

8.5.1 The meeting discussed the aftermath of the 2 summer concerts at Murrayfield Stadium. The Chairman reported that A Weatherston had discovered a document which disclosed that the City Council had the power to make drinking in public illegal. Cllr Balfour warned against pressing for legislation which could not be enforced. M Biagi pointed out that Strathclyde Police had managed to enforce a ban on drinking in Bellahouston Park. Cllr Edie explained that under the regime in force in Glasgow a fixed penalty is issued automatically if a person is found in possession of alcohol. In Edinburgh the Police employ a lighter touch and tend to confiscate rather than fine.

**The Chairman intimated that he would circulate for comments a draft letter to the City Council setting out MCC's stance on this issue.**

During a discussion with members of the public Cllr Balfour explained that the concert organisers are responsible only for what takes place inside the Stadium. Cllr Edie explained that primary legislation would be required to make local alcohol licensees responsible for the conduct of their customers in a defined area outside the Stadium. M Biagi informed the meeting that the Licensing Act provides for a social responsibility levy to be imposed on licensees, but that this provision has not yet been brought into force because of the current economic climate.

8.5.2 R Smart reported that Riccardo Marini had agreed to give a lecture on his vision for the City before the start of the next meeting on 1 November. It was proposed that the lecture should start at 7pm followed by refreshments at 8pm and the meeting at 8.20pm. The lecture would be advertised, as previously discussed.

8.5.4 G McLeod reported that Cllr Balfour had found out which company owned the now defunct cash machine at Western Corner. The owner of the Prego store was willing to have the machine installed inside the store but would expect payment for this. It was agreed that **G McLeod and Cllr Balfour should pursue negotiations with the cash machine company and the owner of the Prego store.**

8.5.5 Cllr Edie encouraged the meeting to think about taking to Twitter in common with Queensferry Community Council and the West Edinburgh Neighbourhood team. It was agreed that for this to be successful, a regular stream of newsworthy items would be required and either automatic updating or extra resources to enable regular updating. It was not thought that MCC had the capacity to take up this suggestion at present.

9. Nominee of Murrayfield Parish Church

This had been dealt with at item 1.

10. Dog Fouling

The problem of the fouling of pavements by dogs had been raised by an MCC member, J McIntosh, who is a wheelchair user. It was agreed that a combination of signs, dedicated bins and environmental wardens was needed to solve the problem. **Cllr Edie undertook to raise this issue with Murray Black of the West Edinburgh Neighbourhood team.**

11. Planning and Licensing

R Smart reported that he had considered 7 recent “small domestic” planning applications, none of which gave cause for concern. He anticipated that the architects of the latest proposed development of the Ellersley Road site would want to give a short presentation on their proposals to the next MCC meeting.

R Smart reported that the resiting of the eastern Murrayfield Gardens pillar would be completed by the end of September.

In response to a query from a member of the public R Smart intimated that the large new building at the corner of Ravelston Dykes Road is being built as a home for 3 generations of a family.

No one could confirm whether the former car showroom at Roseburn is to become a Tesco Metro shop.

No new licensing issues were raised.

12. Traffic and Transport

G McLeod reported that he and W Spence had attended a Community Safety meeting on 14 September at which it had been confirmed that one of the bus stops on Saughtonhall Drive, which was to be resited further from Western Corner, was to be moved so that it was opposite the bus stop on the other side of the Drive. It was agreed that it was undesirable to have the bus stops opposite each other and that **G McLeod should write to Graham Atkins, who is responsible for the bus stops, to request that the bus stop is not moved so far.**

A member of the public raised the proposed extension of the controlled parking zone to Murrayfield and suggested that a single short period during which only residents could park would be ineffectual and that 2 such periods would be required. Cllr Balfour advised him that it was not too late to suggest this, as public consultation was ongoing.

13. Reports

There were no further reports.

14. Correspondence

The Chairman directed the meeting to the list of correspondence received since the last meeting, which was printed on the back of the Agenda and is attached to these Minutes, and the approach by Rear View Music with a view to “getting Murrayfield singing”.

15. Any Other Competent Business

S Holland informed the meeting that the Cockburn Association’s Doors Open Day would in fact be 2 days - Saturday, 24 and Sunday, 25 September.

G McLeod reported that he had heard that the empty Donaldson’s College building was deteriorating. He suggested that M Biagi and the Councillors be requested to arrange for an inspection with a view to preventing its falling into disrepair and being demolished. **G Douglas** cautioned that the information on the state of the building might not be good and suggested that the owners, CALA, should be contacted in the first instance. He **undertook to write a letter to CALA and copy it to Cllr Balfour**. M Biagi encouraged the continued interest of MCC in the future of the College building.

16. Questions from the Floor

There were no further questions from the floor.

17. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 1 November 2011

Subsequent meetings: 14 December 2011, 31 January and 6 March 2012.

Minutes approved at meeting of 1 November 2011

Murrayfield Community Council Main Correspondence Received  
Since meeting of: 2 Aug 2011

31 Jul	EACC	Proposing a support network for CCllrs in Scotland	
4 Aug	CEC Libraries	'Word Up' newsletter	
4 Aug	Cllr Wheeler	Copy correspondence: re-surfacing of Campbell Avenue	
4 Aug →	David Blair	Inviting participation in dissertation survey	
4 Aug	Jessica Connor	Undertaking research about different areas in Edinburgh	
10 Aug	CEC Planning & Strategy	'Delivering Capital Growth': council's vision for Edinburgh 2030	
12 Aug →	Edinburgh Trams	Suggesting updating residents on local plans	
13 Aug	Rear View Music	Wish to meet to discuss getting Murrayfield singing	
15 Aug	Health In Mind	Seeking volunteers to support older people in W & S Central Ed.	
15 Aug	CEC CC Liaison	NP 'Meet the Funders' Event	20/9
17 Aug	ASCC	Online Bulletin, August 2011	
18 Aug	CEC CC Liaison	Cashback for Communities grants	16/9
19 Aug	CEC Roads	TRO: waiting restrictions around St George's School area	
19 Aug	Cllr Wheeler	TTRO: emergency closure Cumlodden Av. & Craigleith Rise	
23 Aug	CEC Licensing	Applications and amendments for September board meeting	
28 Aug	John Riddell	Copy correspondence: to Cllr Balfour about lack of progress in removing the air monitoring unit Roseburn Old Bridge	
31 Aug	Office of Marco Biagi MSP	Invitation to MacMillan Coffee Morning drop in	30/9
31 Aug	EACC	Publicising 'Abundance Edinburgh' fruit harvesting group	
1 Sep	CEC Waste Services	Recycling incentive scheme to start in the autumn	
1 Sep	CEC Parks Events	Tynecastle High School sponsored walk Roseburn Park	16/9
2 Sep	CEC Roads	TRO: Extending use of cashless parking scheme	
2 Sep	Priority Parking Morningside	Campaign information in relation to CEC's intentions for controlled parking	
5 Sep	EACC	Edinburgh Partnership meeting papers	8/9
5 Sep	CEC Planning & Strategy	Outcomes of consultation on CEC's planning service	
6 Sep	EACC	EACC Q&A session with CEC Chief Executive	24/9
6 Sep	CEC CC Liaison	Planning Aid for Scotland even on the Zero Waste Plan	26/11
6 Sep	CEC Library Services	Availability of Edinburgh4Community funding information service	
7 Sep	CEC Heritage	Consultation on action plan for the Edinburgh World Heritage site	31/10
8 Sep	CEC CC Liaison	Report on CEC's arrangements for severe winter weather	
12 Sep	EACC	Draft Edinburgh Partnership Annual Progress Report	

ASCC = Association of Scottish Community Councils  
 CC = Community Council  
 CEC = City of Edinburgh Council  
 DAAA = Donaldson Area Amenity Association  
 EACC = Edinburgh Association of Community Councils  
 SNT = Safer Neighbourhood Team at Lothian and Borders Police  
 SESplan = The Strategic Development Planning Authority for Edinburgh and South East Scotland  
 (T)TRO = (Temporary) Traffic Regulation Order  
 WNT = West Neighbourhood Team at CEC  
 WENP = West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership